



RAHNAMA

P R E S S

@RAHNAMAPRESS

WWW.RAHNAMAPRESS.COM

UNGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 4

The Body in the Library

Agatha Christie





RAHNAMA
P R E S S

@RAHNAMAPRESS

WWW.RAHNAMAPRESS.COM

Contents

	Activities 1	iv
Chapter 1	A Shocking Discovery	1
Chapter 2	Basil Blake's Cottage	8
	Activities 2	14
Chapter 3	Disappearance of a Dancer	16
Chapter 4	A Very Nice Woman	22
	Activities 3	28
Chapter 5	The Missing Minoan 14	30
Chapter 6	Old Friends	36
	Activities 4	42
Chapter 7	The Fingernail	44
Chapter 8	Death of a Schoolgirl	52
	Activities 5	58
Chapter 9	Living in the Past	60
Chapter 10	The Loyal Servant	65
	Activities 6	72
Chapter 11	The Fellow from the Film Studios	74
Chapter 12	Miss Marple Explains Everything	81
	Talk about it	88
	Write about it	89
	Project: Murder Mystery Evening	90

1.1 What's the book about?

Look at the title of the book, the writer's name and the picture on the front cover. Discuss these questions.

- What kind of story do you think this is? Tick (✓) one or more boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/> adventure	<input type="checkbox"/> romantic	<input type="checkbox"/> science fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> crime	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> historical
		<input type="checkbox"/> mystery
- Have you read other books by Agatha Christie, or seen films of her stories? Who were the main characters? What happened in the stories?

1.2 What happens first?

Look at the pictures in the first two chapters. Then look at the pictures below. These people all live in the English village of St Mary Mead.



Miss Marple



Colonel Bantry



Constable Palk



Basil Blake

- Which of them, do you think,
 - owns a big house?
 - enjoys bird-watching and gardening?
 - has a lot of noisy parties?
 - has a job as a village policeman?
- One of them is a clever detective. Can you guess which one?
- Find Miss Marple's home on the map opposite. What is the name of Colonel Bantry's home, do you think?

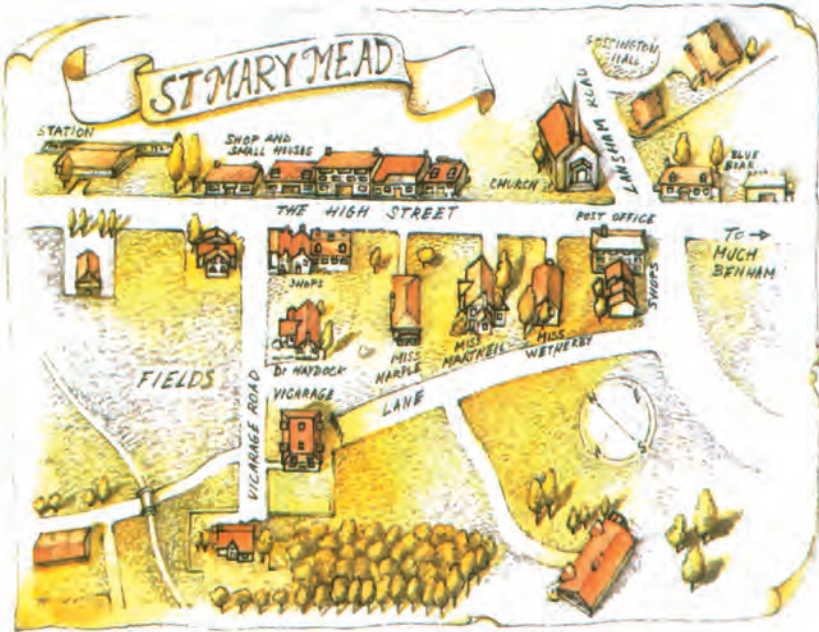
A Shocking Discovery

*'Bodies are always being found in libraries in books.
I've never known it to happen in real life.'*

The village of St* Mary Mead lies in the south-east of England, about twenty-five miles from London, twelve miles from the coast and two miles north of the town of Much Benham. It is a small English country village with a main street and shops, a post office, a railway station, and a pub called the Blue Boar. There is a church and a **Vicarage**, and a number of **cottages**.

There doesn't seem to be anything unusual about St Mary Mead. You would say it is the kind of place where nothing ever happens. Everyone knows everyone else, and they all love to talk about what their neighbours are doing.

Yes, St Mary Mead seems to be a quiet little English village, just like many English villages. But sometimes unusual things happen there – surprising and even shocking things. For example, the terrible events which happened one autumn evening in the library at Gossington Hall.



* St: Short for *Saint*

vicarage /'vɪkərɪdʒ/ (n) a place where a vicar, an official of the Church of England, lives
cottage /'kɒtɪdʒ/ (n) a small house in the country, especially an old one

Gossington Hall was a large house in the eastern part of St Mary Mead. It was owned by **Colonel** Arthur Bantry and his wife, Dolly.

One morning, Mrs Bantry was lying in bed. She was still half asleep and was having a pleasant dream about winning a prize at the local flower show. But although she was enjoying her dream, she could hear the noises that the servants were making downstairs as they did their work around the house.

Another day was beginning, just like so many other days at Gossington Hall. Soon Mrs Bantry's **maid**, Mary, would bring an early morning cup of tea. Every morning, Mrs Bantry heard the sound of Mary's footsteps along the **passage** outside, and the sound of the teacups. Then Mary knocked softly at the door before entering the room. She pulled back the curtains to let the light in, then put the tea down beside Colonel and Mrs Bantry's bed.

But this morning, something was wrong – very wrong. Mrs Bantry could hear footsteps coming along the passage, but they were too hurried and too soon. She listened for the sound of the teacups outside the door, but it did not come. Then there was a knock at the door.

'Come in!' called Mrs Bantry, with her eyes still closed. She knew that soon Mary would pull back the curtains as usual.

But instead of the sound of the curtains, she heard Mary's voice – frightened and upset.

'Oh, madam, oh madam, *there's a body in the library.*'

And then Mary rushed out of the room again in tears.

Mrs Bantry sat up in bed. Had Mary really come into the room and said there was a body in the library?

She thought about it for a moment, and then gave her sleeping husband a sharp push.

'Arthur, Arthur, wake up.'

Colonel Bantry turned over on his side.

'Wake up, Arthur. Did you hear what she said?'

'Probably,' said Colonel Bantry sleepily. 'I quite agree with you, Dolly.' Then he went to sleep again.

Mrs Bantry shook him.

'You've got to listen. Mary came in and said that there was a dead body in the library.'

'Eh? What?'

'*A body in the library.*'

Colonel /'kɜ:nəl/ (n) an officer who has or had an important position in the army

maid /meɪd/ (n) a female servant, especially in a large house

passage /'pæsɪdʒ/ (n) a long, narrow area with walls, connecting one room to another

‘Who said that?’

‘Mary.’

Colonel Bantry was still half asleep.

‘Don’t be silly, Dolly; you’ve been dreaming.’

‘No, I haven’t,’ said Mrs Bantry. ‘I thought so too, at first. But I haven’t. She really came in and said that.’

‘Mary came in and said there was a body in the library?’

‘Yes.’

‘But there can’t be,’ said Colonel Bantry.

‘No, no, I suppose not,’ said Mrs Bantry doubtfully. She paused, then continued, ‘But why did Mary say there was?’

‘You imagined it.’

‘I didn’t imagine it.’

Colonel Bantry was now fully awake. ‘You’ve been dreaming, Dolly,’ he said kindly. ‘You’ve been reading too many detective stories. Bodies are always being found in libraries in books. I’ve never known it to happen in real life.’

‘You’ve got to get up and see, Arthur,’ said Mrs Bantry.

‘But really, Dolly, it *was* only a dream.’

Suddenly, Mrs Bantry jumped out of bed, went to the window and pulled back the curtains. The light of a fine autumn day shone into the room.

‘I did *not* dream it,’ she said crossly. ‘Get up at once, Arthur, and go downstairs. Find out what’s happened.’

‘You want me to go downstairs and ask if there’s a body in the library? I shall look like a fool.’

‘You needn’t ask anything,’ said Mrs Bantry. ‘If there *is* a body – and perhaps Mary’s gone mad – someone will tell you. You won’t have to say anything.’

Still complaining, Colonel Bantry got out of bed and left the room. He went along the passage and down the stairs. At the foot of the stairs was a small group of servants; some of them were crying.

The **butler** stepped forward.

‘I’m glad you have come, sir,’ he said to Colonel Bantry. ‘Shall I ring the police?’

‘Ring them about what?’ asked the Colonel.

The butler looked at the tall young woman who was crying on the cook’s shoulder.

‘I thought, sir, that Mary had already informed you. She said she had.’

‘I was so upset, I don’t know what I said,’ said Mary, crying noisily. ‘Finding it like that – oh, oh, oh!’

butler /ˈbʌtlə/ (n) the most important male servant in a big house



RAHNA
P R E S S

@RAHNAAPRESS

WWW.RAHNAAPRESS.COM

The Body in the Library

Agatha Christie

British English
Contemporary

Early one morning the Bantrys wake to find the dead body of a young woman in their library. Who is she? How did she get there? The police are called, of course, but Dolly Bantry quickly invites her friend Jane Marple to solve the mystery.

Number of words (excluding activities): 25,242

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

For correlations to English Language Teaching exams, please visit www.penguinreaders.com

Penguin Active Reading provides reading and language learning at five levels, through full-colour, beautifully illustrated Readers. As well as enjoyable stories and texts, each book provides a range of integrated activities designed to develop reading skills and consolidate vocabulary, and offers personalised project work. Each book is supported by an interactive CD-ROM which contains additional activities and the complete audio recording.

Easystarts	200 headwords	
Level 1	300 headwords	<i>Beginner</i>
Level 2	600 headwords	<i>Elementary</i>
Level 3	1200 headwords	<i>Pre-intermediate</i>
Level 4	1700 headwords	<i>Intermediate</i>

Cover illustration by Carlos Fonseca

Agatha Christie

www.agathachristie.com



www.penguinreaders.com



PENGUIN
ACTIVE
READING

Level 4
1700 headwords
Intermediate

ISBN 978-1-4058-8451-8



9 781405 884518 >